

Documents on Diplomacy: The Source

The Four Freedoms

Excerpt from President Roosevelt's Annual Address to Congress, January 6, 1941

In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The **first** is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.

The **second** is freedom of every person to worship God in his way—everywhere in the world.

The **third** is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

The **fourth** is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world. ■

Source

The Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History, and Diplomacy, Yale Law School, Lillian Goldman Law Library.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/decade01.asp